SUBJECT No. 30.

Amendment of Stamp Act.

Mr. Linge Gowda, Mysore Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The stamp fees on hypothecation, mortgage and sale deeds the subject-matter of which does not exceed Rs. 25 and 50 in value, may be reduced to two annas and four annas respectively.

Reply of Government.—No change is desirable.

JUDICIAL.

(*Nos. 31 to 67.*)

SUBJECT No. 31.

(*a*) Munsiff Magistrates.
(*b*) Circuit Magistrates.

Messrs. K. Shankarnarayana Rao, Nagar Sabha; S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Municipality; C. Nagappa, Nagar Taluk; Ramaswamiengar, Hassan Taluk and Kesavaiengar, Belur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) I. The experiment now tried of investing Munsiffs with magisterial powers and relieving the Amildars of their magisterial functions is not likely to prove quite successful, as the Munsiffs may not be able to do full justice to both civil and criminal work and will be unable to avail themselves of the mid-summer vacation.

The experiment may be tried in a better way by investing Sub-Registrars of the higher grades with magisterial powers or by appointing stationary Sub-Magistrates from among the members of the Bar who are Graduates in law.

Taluk Amildars in charge of the district head-quarter taluks may be relieved of their magisterial functions and the Treasury Assistant Commissioners empowered to take up all the cases of such taluks.

II. The non-exercise of magisterial powers by some Amildars under the recent orders of Government has left them more time for revenue inspections, for hearing the personal representations of raiyats, for the collection of revenue, etc., and has proved very beneficial. All the other Amildars and Deputy Amildars may be likewise divested of magisterial functions which may be directed to be exercised by Sub-Divisional Assistant Commissioners. The present practice of investing Munsiffs with magisterial powers has very much increased their work. The practice of referring criminal cases to Amildars who have not been exercising magisterial powers may be put a stop to. The Amildars may also be divested of Police functions.

(i) In some places the Munsiffs are unable to dispose of both civil and criminal work quickly and there is delay in the disposal of cases. The experiment is therefore not working well.

Per contra—Messrs. Bhima Rao and Muninarayanasetti of Kolar said that the experiment was working well in Kolar and both classes of cases were being disposed of with despatch.

(ii) Sub-Registrars may be invested with magisterial powers.

Per contra.—Several members were against this proposal.